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10/509,398	10/03/2005	Christopher James Philip Clements	M02B124	5844
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/509,398

Applicant(s)

CLEMENTS ET AL.

Examiner

IVES WU

Art Unit

1797

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 September 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 17 and 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/23/2004
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

- (1). **Claims 15, 17 and 21** objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because a multiple dependent claim 14, 20 from which they depend on. See MPEP § 608.01(n). Accordingly, the claims 15, 17 and 21 not been further treated on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:
The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- (2). **Claim 16** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In claim 16, it recites: "A method according to claim 16...", it is rejected because it depends on itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

- (3). **Claims 1-5, 18 and 21** rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sachweh et al (US06284022B1).

As to step of contacting the gas stream with water at a temperature of at least 30 °C in a method of scrubbing a halogen-containing gas stream in **independent claim 1**, and water temperature of at least 35 °C in **claim 2**, and water to be in liquid state in **claim 3**, gas stream being contact with water vapour in **claim 4**, the gas stream being contact with water at a temperature of from 35 °C to 80 °C in **claim 5**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose method for removing contaminants from a gas stream (Title). it relates to methods for removing gaseous contaminants and aerosols from a vapor-saturated gas stream in a scrubber column, with a

scrubbing liquid, the temperature of which is lower by at least 2° C than the temperature of the gas stream, resulting in the formation of a **vapor phase** (Abstract). Gas streams which are suitable are in principle all gas streams which have a carrier gas which is to be cleaned at the process temperature and which contains both gaseous and particulate contaminants which are to be removed (Col. 2, line 58-61). Suitable scrubbing liquids are, for example, distilled water, demineralized water, tap water, process water, aqueous solutions of acids or bases, or organic solvents such as toluol, butanol, ethanol or acetone (Col. 3, line 55-58). For example, if water is used as scrubbing liquid, it is then possible to remove, for example, the hydrohalic acids, **HF**, **HCl** or **HBr**, from the gas stream without problems (Col. 2, line 3-6). In principle, all scrubber columns in which the necessary contact surface is available are suitable (Col. 4, line 44-45). The temperature of the gas stream when it enters the column may be up to approximately 100 °C. In a preferred embodiment, the temperature of the gas stream is approximately 40 to approximately 90 °C (Col. 4, line 58-61). The temperature of the scrubbing liquid should be lower than the temperature of the gas stream. In a preferred embodiment, the temperature of the scrubbing liquid lies at least approximately 10 to approximately 15 °C below the temperature of the gas stream. Examples of temperature differences which are particularly preferred are approximately 30 to approximately 60 °C., in particularly approximately approximately 40 to approximately 50 °C. In a preferred embodiment, the scrubbing liquid is at a temperature of from approximately 2 to approximately 50 °C (Col. 4, line 64 – Col. 5, line 8).

As to a hot wash scrubbing chamber, halogen-containing gas stream water temperature, outlet from hot wash chamber for treated gas in an apparatus in **independent claim 18**, the disclosure of Sachweh et al is incorporated herein by reference, the most subject matters as currently claimed has been recited in applicants' claim 1 and has been discussed therein. Furthermore, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose the Figure 2 showing a scrubber column, a vapor-saturated gas stream enters at the bottom end of column and cold scrubber liquid is fed to the top end of the column, an outlet at bottom of the scrubber column (not numbered) which read on the limitations of instant claim, and it would contain a source of halogen-containing gas, a water supply device in order to supply to the scrubber.

As to the apparatus for scrubbing a halogen from a gas stream in **independent claim 18**, the intended use is not considered as limitation.

As to fluorine-containing gas in **claim 21**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose HF (Col. 4, line 5).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

(4). **Claims 6-7, 19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachweh et al (US06284022B1).

As to gas stream being subject to at least one further treatment step in **claim 6**, and one further treatment step comprising contacting the gas stream with water at a temperature of less than 30 °C in **claim 7**, in view of the temperature range of scrubbing water disclosed by Sachweh et al (US06284022B1), it would be obvious to have second scrubber with water temperature less than 30 °C together because duplication in parts renders obvious. *In re Harza*, 274 F.2d 669, 124 USPQ 378 (CCPA 1960).

As to a cold wash scrubbing chamber downstream of hot wash scrubbing chamber, a cold water spray, water temperature in **claim 19**, the disclosure of Sachweh et al is incorporated herein by reference, the most subject matters as currently claimed, has been recited in applicants' claim 7, and has been discussed therein.

As to a communication pathway for transport of the treated gas from the outlet of hot wash chamber into the old wash chamber, and an outlet for treated gas from cold wash chamber in **claim 19**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose the segments in scrubber column in Figure

2, which would have a communication pathway between hot and cold scrubbing if 2nd cold stage of scrubbing is installed. As illustrated in Figure 2, there is an outlet for treated gas (not numbered).

(3). **Claims 8-17, 20** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) in view of Smith et al (EP-1023932A1).

As to one further treatment step of diluting the gas stream with a diluent gas in **claim 8**, gas stream being contacted with the diluent gas in a cyclone device in **claim 10**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) **do not teach** the further treatment step of diluting in a cyclone as claimed.

However, Smith et al (EP 1023932A1) **teach** gas purifying cyclone (Title). The cleaning system comprises a cyclone for receiving the gas stream and separating the gas from the particles, where the cyclone processes means for the introduction of a diluent gas stream (Abstract).

The advantage of using a diluent gas in cyclone separator, in particular is to reduce the concentration of pyrophoric gases in noxious gas stream below their flammability limits ([0019]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious at time of the invention to add cyclone with diluent gas taught by Smith et al with the scrubbing tower in the method of Sachweh et al in order to attain the advantages. Moreover, further purification of product is obvious. MPEP §§ 2144.05.VII.

As to step of contacting water at temperature of less than 30 °C and thereafter, step in which the gas stream is diluted with a diluent gas in **claim 9**, the disclosure of Sachweh et al, Smith et al is incorporated herein by reference, the most subject matters as currently claimed, have been recited in applicants' claims 7 & 8, and have been discussed therein.

As to step of contacting the gas stream with water, subsequently treating the gas stream in a cyclone device in which it is diluted with a diluent gas stream in a method of scrubbing a halogen-containing gas stream in **independent claim 11**, the disclosure of Sachweh et al, Smith et al is incorporated herein by reference, the most subject matters as currently claimed, have been recited in applicants' claims 7 and 10, and have been discussed therein.

As to step of withdrawing separately from the cyclone device solid particulate material and a treated gas stream in **independent claim 11**, Smith et al (EP 1023932A1) disclose the gas outlet 35 in the form of a tube set in to an upper wall 36 of the cyclone body 31 and a particle outlet 37 at the base of the conical portion 33 allowing particles to exit the body 31 under gravitational force and be collected at bottom of the body ([0039]).

As to temperature of water being maintained at less than 30 °C in **claim 12**, the disclosure of Sachweh et al, Smith et al is incorporated herein by reference, the most subject matters as currently claimed, have been recited in applicants' claim 7, and has been discussed therein.

As to diluent gas to be air in **claim 13**, Smith et al (EP 1023932A1) disclose the diluent gas conveniently being air ([0040]).

As to halogen-containing gas stream being an exhaust gas from semiconductor manufacture in **claim 14**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose gas stream being suitable in principle all gas streams which have a carrier gas which is to be cleaned at the process temperature and which contains both gaseous and particulate contaminants which are to be removed (Col. 2, line 58-61). It would include the exhaust gas from semi-conductor manufacture as claimed.

As to each water contacting step to be arranged to be generally counterflow relationship with the water in **claim 15**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose in countercurrent or cocurrent (Col. 5, line 42-45).

As to gas stream flowing in a generally upward direction and water being caused to flow in a generally downward direction in **claim 16**, the figure 2 of Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) shows the features as claimed.

As to halogen-containing gas stream being a fluorine-containing gas stream in **claim 17**, Sachweh et al (US06284022B1) disclose HF, HCl or HBr (Col. 4, line 5).

As to the dilution unit in which the treated gas to be diluted with a diluent gas in **claim 20**, the disclosure of Sachweh et al, Smith et al is incorporated herein by reference, the most subject matters as currently claimed, has been recited in applicants' claims 8 and 10 and has been discussed therein.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to IVES WU whose telephone number is (571)272-4245. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Examiner: Ives Wu

Art Unit: 1797

Date: August 20, 2008

/Jason M. Greene/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1797
8/20/08